Compulsory HIV/AIDS Tests before marriage

350. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is considering any proposal to make HIV/AIDS test compulsory before marriage in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Compulsory testing for HIV is not recommended on ethical grounds. However, voluntary testing is encouraged.

To uphold human dignity and in the interest of human rights, no compulsion is forced as a matter of policy by the Government of India.

Illegal foetus testing machines

351. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many foetus testing machines are being operated without any licence;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take any specific steps to check this; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Sex of the foetus can be detected by various methods. The ultrasound machines/scanners/imaging machines are most commonly used for this purpose. The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 prohibits determination and disclosure of sex of the foetus. Clinics using pre-natal diagnostic techniques like ultrasound machines are required to get themselves registered under the Act so as to discourage and discontinue their use for detection of sex of the foetus during pregnancy. A large number of clinics/ institutes using such machines are not registered under this Act taking the plea that they are not using these machines for detection of sex of foetus.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.